

Appl. No. : 10/082,397
Filed : August 6, 2002

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendments to the Claims set forth above. All of the pending claims are supported in the application as filed, and thus there is no issue of new matter. Claims 60-67 and 69-71 have been canceled without prejudice. New dependent Claims 72-80 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 68, which the Office has indicated is allowable.

Applicant reserves the right to file divisional and/or continuation applications containing claims directed to all or part of the subject matter described in the instant application, including the subject matter of any claims amended, withdrawn, or canceled at any time during the prosecution of this application, and thus unclaimed subject matter is not dedicated to the public.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 69 and 71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,212,582 ("Nelson"). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, Claims 69-71 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes that the Office has allowed Claim 68. Applicant has now added new dependent Claims 72-80. Since new Claims 72-80 depend directly or indirectly from allowable Claim 68 and recite additional limitations that further distinguish the subject matter of those claims from the prior art, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 68 and 72-80 are allowable. Further, the Applicant submits that Claim 81 is a method claim that includes at least some of the patentable limitations recited in Claim 68. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claim 81 is allowable for at least the same reason for allowing Claim 68. Likewise, since Claims 82-90 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 81, Applicant submits that Claims 82-90 are also allowable.

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Conclusion

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are made in order to improve the clarity of claim language, to correct grammatical mistakes or ambiguities, and to otherwise improve the clarity of the claims to particularly and distinctly point out the invention to those of skill in the art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and, particularly, that all claims be allowed. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMEND
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